touched on here. Says Stanley, "I consider this blog an extension of my existing websites, and a means of staying in touch with my diverse readership. Viewers can contact me through the blog, and if I think their questions are of general interest, I'll address them in the next day's posts." Stanley's guidebooks are published by Avalon Travel Publishing of Emeryville, California.

David Stanley has created three travel websites to display his photos, maps, and guides.
http://www.pacific-pictures.com
http://www.mapsouthpacific.com
http://www.southpacific.org

'A Pó: The Rapanui Youth Program, Field Report on Lichen Studies

'A Pó (THE RAPANUI YOUTH INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM) began in 2003 as an educational outreach program offered by the Padre Sebastián Englert Anthropological Museum on Rapa Nui. For the last three years, the program has involved local Rapa Nui high school students in various scientific research projects.

During 2005, a group of students and instructors mapped, photographed and described the lichens of Vinapu, focusing specifically on Ahu Tahira. The project was funded in part by generous donations from Michael Graves, Jo Lynn Gunness, and the University of Hawai'i Foundation. Revisiting a topic initially investigated by Gerhard Follmann in the 1960's, the *'A Pó* group conducted a pilot study to assess lichen growth and the potential for lichenometry at Ahu Tahira. Students participating in the 2005 project learned a variety of fieldwork and laboratory skills, including digital photography, archaeological mapping, microscopic analysis, and computer programs for data analysis.

Students on the *'A Pó* project study the lichen growth on Ahu Tahira at Vinapu, under direction of Brett Shepardson.

The pilot study, the results of which will soon be presented on the *'A Pó* website (http://www.terevaka.net/apo.html), will serve as a foundation for future research. A long-term monitoring project may be the best step forward to reestablish lichen studies on the island and to further both archaeological and biological interests. Lichens are renowned for their use in environmental monitoring, and if groups of high school students could regularly collect lichen data from specific sites, the contribution to a database of measurements for future analysis would be invaluable. To support *'A Pó* or for questions or comments, please contact *'A Pó* coordinator: bleif@hawaii.edu.

Easter Island: Total Land Area of Te Pito o Te Henua

Claudio Cristino and Roberto Izaurieta

REVIEWING THE COPIOUS LITERATURE dealing with Easter Island, we find conflicting figures for the land area of the island. Many are clearly inaccurate, so we are pleased to now update this information. The surface of Easter Island is calculated based on air-photogrammetric digital mapping developed by IGM (*Instituto Geográfico Militar de Chile*) in August 2004, based on air photographs, scale 1:25.000, taken by SAF (*Servicio Aerofotogramétrico de la Fuerza Aérea de Chile*) in 1981. For the vectorial cartography, the Geodetic Reference System SIRGAS (WGS84) in UTM projection zone 12 (central meridian 111°W) were used, designed for graphic plots to scale 1:10.000, with contour lines every 5 meters.

Our new calculations show that the exact value of the area included by the projected coastal polygon of Easter Island is 16,357.4026 hectares and, after applying the reciprocal square of the UTM mean scale factor for the island, a corrected value of 16,359.7354 hectares or 40,425.6209 acres is obtained, as effective for the zero contour at mean sea level. Thus, the land area of Easter Island, rounded to the nearest decimal, is 163.6 square kilometers or 63.2 square miles.

Editor's Note: In 1994, *RNJ* printed a paper by Lehman Henry, "The Area of Rapa Nui," *RNJ* 8(3):71-73. Henry suggested 66 square miles (171 sq. km) as the size of the island. Those who used 64 sq. miles include: *Cambridge World Gazetteer* (1988); *Uncommon Guide to Easter Island* by Lee (1990); *Rapa Nui National Park Map* (1992); *Easter Island Earth Island* by Bahn and Flenley (1993); *South Pacific Handbook* (1993); and *National Geographic Magazine* (March 1993). The only one to come up with 63 square miles was *The New Encyclopedia Britannica* for 1990. *The US National Museum Report of 1899* gave the smallest dimension, stating the island's size to be a measly 34 square miles.